

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 14-22 and 24-27 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 14-16, 18-22 and 24-27 are cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 28 is added herein. Accordingly, after entry of this amendment only claims 17 and 28 will be pending in this application.

Claims 17 and 28 are independent.

Claim 17 is allowed.

The rejection of the other claims pending prior to entry of this amendment is moot in view of their cancellation.

The Examiner's participation in telephonic discussions of this application on May 2 and 4, 2006 is noted with appreciation.

As discussed, to expedite allowance of this application, all previously pending rejected claims are cancelled and a single new independent claim 28 is presented in this after final amendment. New claim 28 recites a connection lead that comprises a copper strip or other strip conductor, and a plating. The plating is provided on at least one side of the strip conductor and includes a lead free solder. Like the alloy composition of allowed claim 17, the lead free solder of new claim 28 consists of 0.002 to 0.015% by mass of phosphorus, 2.0 to 5.0% by mass of silver, 0.01 to 2.0% by mass of copper, and tin.

Thus, new claim 28 is allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 17 is allowable.

As also discussed, it is understood that, in view of the above, the Examiner will enter this after final amendment, including new claim 28, under 37 CFR §1.116, and that, subject to no more relevant art being uncovered in an updated search, issue a notice of allowability in this application.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed local telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues and further to expedite passage of the application to issue, if any further comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please charge any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 521.41457X00) and please credit any excess fess to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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